

Trials, Treason and Transportation

On 31st December 1839 twelve men went on trial at the Shire Hall, Monmouth for their part in the Newport Rising. Among the twelve were Chartist leaders John Frost, Zephaniah Williams and William Jones.

In the very courtroom where the case was heard, your class can re-enact the trial of John Frost and experience the drama and tension of one of the most famous and infamous British trials of the 19th century; the trial of the Monmouthshire Chartists. Discover how the Chartists helped to shape our modern democratic system, explore their campaign methods and use actual court records to decide if Chartist leader John Frost is guilty or not guilty of High Treason, a crime punishable by death.

Venue: Shire Hall, Monmouth

Key Stage: KS2

Duration of workshop: 2 hours

Maximum number of pupils: 35

What will pupils do?

- Explore the six points of the Chartist's People's Charter and the reasons why they called for reform of the voting system.
- Use primary source material to investigate what happened during the Newport Rising and what role the Monmouthshire Chartists played in this event.
- Plan the case for the Defence and the Prosecution of John Frost, based on real evidence used in the trial of the Monmouthshire Chartists.
- Enact the 'Trial of John Frost' in the courtroom where the actual trial of the Monmouthshire Chartists was held, based upon the pupil's own Prosecution and Defence cases
- Explore the Holding cells

By taking part in this workshop pupils will:

- Interpret and critically analyse primary sources and other evidence
- Develop questioning skills
- Develop and employ speaking and listening skills
- Increase knowledge and understanding of Chartism and its impact on our democratic system
- Problem solve
- Work as a team
- Think creatively and critically

Which Areas of Learning and Experience does this workshop support?

- Humanities
- Expressive Arts

How this workshop supports the Four Purposes

<p>Ambitious, capable learners, ready to learn throughout their lives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • set themselves high standards and seek and enjoy challenge • are building up a body of knowledge and have the skills to connect and apply that knowledge in different contexts • are questioning and enjoy solving problems • undertake research and evaluate critically what they find 	<p>Enterprising, creative contributors, ready to play a full part in life and work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • connect and apply their knowledge and skills to create ideas and products • think creatively to reframe and solve problems • lead and play different roles in teams effectively and responsibly
<p>Ethical, informed citizens of Wales and the world</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • find, evaluate and use evidence in forming views • are knowledgeable about their culture, community, society and the world, now and in the past. 	<p>Healthy, confident individuals, ready to lead fulfilling lives as valued members of society</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are building their mental and emotional well-being by developing confidence, resilience and empathy • have the confidence to participate in performance

Workshop links to What Matters statements.

Humanities

- Enquiry, exploration and investigation inspire curiosity about the world, its past, present and future.
- Events and human experiences are complex, and are perceived, interpreted and represented in different ways.
- Human societies are complex and diverse, and shaped by human actions and beliefs.

- Informed, self-aware citizens engage with the challenges and opportunities that face humanity, and are able to take considered and ethical action

Expressive Arts

- Creating combines skills and knowledge, drawing on the senses, inspiration and imagination.

Pre-visit requirements: Please divide your class into four groups.